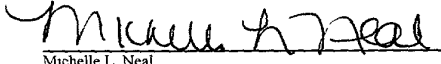


PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

<i>Group</i>		}	<u>Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. 1.10</u>
<i>Art Unit:</i>	Unknown	}	"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER
		}	EL731384636US
<i>Attorney</i>		}	DATE OF DEPOSIT <u>MAY 24, 2001</u>
<i>Docket No.:</i>	SHC0124	}	I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER OR FEE IS BEING
		}	DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SER-
<i>Applicant:</i>	Takaaki Shimada et al.	}	VIC "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE"
		}	SERVICE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.10 ON THE DATE
<i>Invention:</i>	DISPOSABLE PULL-ON	}	INDICATED ABOVE AND IS ADDRESSED TO THE ASSIS-
	UNDERGARMENT	}	TANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS WASHINGTON, DC
		}	20231.
		}	on <u>MAY 24, 2001</u>
<i>Serial No:</i>	Unknown	}	
		}	Michelle L. Neal
<i>Filed:</i>	Herewith	}	
		}	
<i>Examiner:</i>	Unknown	}	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application
as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 3 with the following:

- -It is an object of this invention to provide the disposable pull-on undergarment designed
to be smoothly torn off along the bonding zones.- -

Please replace the fourth paragraph beginning on page 3 continuing on page 4 with the
following:

- -According to this invention the first elastic members respectively have first opposite
ends and first intermediate portions extending between the first opposite ends, respectively, and
the first opposite ends are positioned and fixed at first zones defined immediately inside the
bonding zones in a circumferential direction of the waist-opening.- -

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 4 with the following:

- -According to one embodiment of this invention, the second elastic members respectively have second opposite ends and second intermediate portions extending between the second opposite ends, respectively, and the second opposite ends are positioned and fixed at second zones defined immediately inside the bonding zones in respective circumferential directions of the leg-openings.- -

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 4 with the following:

- -According to another embodiment of this invention, at least one third elastic member lying below the first elastic members and being stretchable in the circumferential direction of the waist-opening is attached under tension to at least one of the first and second waist regions between the peripheral edge of the waist-opening and the peripheral edges of the leg-openings and wherein the third elastic member has third opposite ends and third intermediate portions extending between the third opposite ends and the third opposite ends are positioned and fixed at third zones defined immediately inside the bonding zones in the circumferential direction of the waist-opening.- -

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 5 with the following:

- -According to still another embodiment of this invention, a peel strength between the first and second waist regions in the bonding zones is in a range of 4 ~ 40 N with respect to 25 mm, a longitudinal dimension of the bonding zone.- -

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 8 with the following:

- -The elastic members 8 associated with the waist-opening have their longitudinally opposite ends 8a (first opposite ends) lying in the transversely opposite side edge portions 1a of the front and rear waist regions 20, 22 and an intermediate portions 8b (first intermediate portion)

extending between the respective opposite ends 8a. The respective opposite ends 8a are positioned in zones B2 defined immediately inside the respective bonding zones B1 in the circumferential direction X. The elastic members 8 are disposed between the top- and backsheets 2, 3 with their respective opposite ends 8a partially fixed to inner surfaces of these sheets 2, 3 in the respective zones B2 by means of adhesive 10 and with their intermediate portions 8b intermittently fixed to inner surfaces of these sheets 2, 3 by means of adhesive 11.- -

Please replace the second paragraph beginning on page 8 and continuing on page 9 with the following:

- -The elastic members 9 associated with each of the leg-openings have longitudinally opposite ends 9a (second opposite ends) lying in the transversely opposite side edge portions 1a of the front and rear waist regions 20, 22, respectively, and intermediate portions 9b (second intermediate portion) extending between the opposite ends 9a. The opposite ends 9a are positioned in zones B3 defined immediately inside the respective bonding zones B1 in the circumferential direction Y. The elastic members 9 are disposed between the top- and backsheets 2, 3 with their respective opposite ends 9a partially fixed to inner surfaces of these sheets 2, 3 in the respective zones B3 by means of adhesive 12 and with their intermediate portions 9b intermittently fixed to the inner surfaces of these sheets 2, 3 by means of adhesive 13.- -

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 12 with the following:

- -The front and rear waist regions 20, 22 of the diaper 1 are provided with, in addition to the elastic members 8 associated with the waist-opening (first elastic members) and the elastic members 9 associated under the leg-openings, a plurality of auxiliary elastic members 14 (third elastic members) that are positioned and fixed under tension to the diaper 1 below the elastic members associated with the waist-opening so as to extend in its circumferential direction X.

The auxiliary elastic members 14 are attached to the front and rear waist regions 20, 22 and extend across the core 4 in the circumferential direction X of the waist-opening.- -

Please replace the fourth paragraph beginning on page 13 and continuing on page 14 with the following:

- -The opposite ends 8a, 9a, 14a of the respective elastic members 8, 9, 14 are absent in the bonding zones B1 and therefore a factor which will resist tearing off of the diaper 1 along the bonding zones B1 is only a peel strength of the adhesive in these bonding zones B1. The diaper 1 shown by Fig. 4 is similar to the diaper 1 shown by Fig. 1 in that the peel strength in the bonding zone B1 is in a range of 4 ~ 40 N/25 mm of the bonding zone B1 as measured longitudinally thereof.- -

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A disposable pull-on undergarment comprising:

first and second waist regions opposed to each other; a crotch region extending between said first and second waist regions;

bonding zones connecting said first and second waist regions to one another, and extending along transversely opposite side edge portions of said first and second waist regions so as to define a waist-opening and a pair of leg-openings;

first elastic members bonded under tension to a peripheral edge of the waist-opening and being stretchable circumferentially of said first and second waist regions; and

second elastic members bonded under tension to peripheral edges of the leg-openings and being stretchable circumferentially of said leg-openings,

said first elastic members each having first opposite ends and intermediate portions extending between said first opposite ends, said first opposite ends being positioned and fixed

at first zones defined immediately inside said bonding zones in a circumferential direction of said waist-opening.

Please amend Claim 2 as follows:

2. (Amended) The disposable pull-on undergarment according to Claim 1, wherein said second elastic members each have second opposite ends and second intermediate portions extending between said second opposite ends, and said second opposite ends being positioned and fixed at second zones defined immediately inside said bonding zones in respective circumferential directions of said leg-openings.

Please amend Claim 3 as follows:

3. (Amended) The disposable pull-on undergarment according to Claim 1, further comprising at least one third elastic member lying below said first elastic members and being stretchable in said circumferential direction of said waist-opening, said at least one third elastic member being attached under tension to at least one of said first and second waist regions between the peripheral edge of said waist-opening and said peripheral edges of said leg-openings, each of said at least one third elastic member has third opposite ends and third intermediate portion extending between said third opposite ends, said third opposite ends being positioned and fixed at third zones defined immediately inside said bonding zones in the circumferential direction of said waist-opening.

Please amend Claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) The disposable pull-on undergarment according to Claim 1, wherein a peel strength between said first and second waist regions in said bonding zones is in a range of about 4 to about 40 N with respect to a 25 mm longitudinal dimension of said bonding zone.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the abstract as follows:

- -The disposable pull-on undergarment that has first and second waist regions and a crotch region extending between these two waist regions. The waist regions are connected with each other in bonding zones extending along transversely opposite side edge portions thereof so as to define a waist-opening and a pair of leg-openings. First elastic members are bonded under tension to peripheral edge of the waist-opening and second elastic members are bonded under tension to peripheral edges of the leg-openings so that respective opposite ends of the first elastic members are positioned and fixed at first zones defined immediately inside the bonding zones in a circumferential direction of the waist-opening and respective opposite ends of the second elastic members are positioned and fixed at second zones defined immediately inside the bonding zones in a circumferential direction Y of the leg-openings.- -


• • • R E M A R K S • • •

By the present Preliminary Amendment, the specification, claims and abstract have been revised to more clearly describe applicant's invention in accordance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Care has been taken so as to avoid the addition of new matter in the specification, claims and abstract.

Entry of the present Preliminary Amendment prior to the examination of the application is respectfully requested.

1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929 1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959 1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032 2033 2034 2035 2036 2037 2038 2039 2040 2041 2042 2043 2044 2045 2046 2047 2048 2049 2050 2051 2052 2053 2054 2055 2056 2057 2058 2059 2060 2061 2062 2063 2064 2065 2066 2067 2068 2069 2070 2071 2072 2073 2074 2075 2076 2077 2078 2079 2080 2081 2082 2083 2084 2085 2086 2087 2088 2089 2090 2091 2092 2093 2094 2095 2096 2097 2098 2099 2100 2101 2102 2103 2104 2105 2106 2107 2108 2109 2110 2111 2112 2113 2114 2115 2116 2117 2118 2119 2120 2121 2122 2123 2124 2125 2126 2127 2128 2129 2130 2131 2132 2133 2134 2135 2136 2137 2138 2139 2140 2141 2142 2143 2144 2145 2146 2147 2148 2149 2150 2151 2152 2153 2154 2155 2156 2157 2158 2159 2160 2161 2162 2163 2164 2165 2166 2167 2168 2169 2170 2171 2172 2173 2174 2175 2176 2177 2178 2179 2180 2181 2182 2183 2184 2185 2186 2187 2188 2189 2190 2191 2192 2193 2194 2195 2196 2197 2198 2199 2200 2201 2202 2203 2204 2205 2206 2207 2208 2209 2210 2211 2212 2213 2214 2215 2216 2217 2218 2219 2220 2221 2222 2223 2224 2225 2226 2227 2228 2229 2230 2231 2232 2233 2234 2235 2236 2237 2238 2239 2240 2241 2242 2243 2244 2245 2246 2247 2248 2249 2250 2251 2252 2253 2254 2255 2256 2257 2258 2259 2260 2261 2262 2263 2264 2265 2266 2267 2268 2269 2270 2271 2272 2273 2274 2275 2276 2277 2278 2279 2280 2281 2282 2283 2284 2285 2286 2287 2288 2289 2290 2291 2292 2293 2294 2295 2296 2297 2298 2299 2300 2301 2302 2303 2304 2305 2306 2307 2308 2309 2310 2311 2312 2313 2314 2315 2316 2317 2318 2319 2320 2321 2322 2323 2324 2325 2326 2327 2328 2329 2330 2331 2332 2333 2334 2335 2336 2337 2338 2339 2340 2341 2342 2343 2344 2345 2346 2347 2348 2349 2350 2351 2352 2353 2354 2355 2356 2357 2358 2359 2360 2361 2362 2363 2364 2365 2366 2367 2368 2369 2370 2371 2372 2373 2374 2375 2376 2377 2378 2379 2380 2381 2382 2383 2384 2385 2386 2387 2388 2389 2390 2391 2392 2393 2394 2395 2396 2397 2398 2399 2400 2401 2402 2403 2404 2405 2406 2407 2408 2409 2410 2411 2412 2413 2414 2415 2416 2417 2418 2419 2420 2421 2422 2423 2424 2425 2426 2427 2428 2429 2430 2431 2432 2433 2434 2435 2436 2437 2438 2439 2440 2441 2442 2443 2444 2445 2446 2447 2448 2449 2450 2451 2452 2453 2454 2455 2456 2457 2458 2459 2460 2461 2462 2463 2464 2465 2466 2467 2468 2469 2470 2471 2472 2473 2474 2475 2476 2477 2478 2479 2480 2481 2482 2483 2484 2485 2486 2487 2488 2489 2490 2491 2492 2493 2494 2495 2496 2497 2498 2499 2500 2501 2502 2503 2504 2505 2506 2507 2508 2509 2510 2511 2512 2513 2514 2515 2516 2517 2518 2519 2520 2521 2522 2523 2524 2525 2526 2527 2528 2529 2530 2531 2532 2533 2534 2535 2536 2537 2538 2539 2540 2541 2542 2543 2544 2545 2546 2547 2548 2549 2550 2551 2552 2553 2554 2555 2556 2557 2558 2559 2560 2561 2562 2563 2564 2565 2566 2567 2568 2569 2570 2571 2572 2573 2574 2575 2576 2577 2578 2579 2580 2581 2582 2583 2584 2585 2586 2587 2588 2589 2590 2591 2592 2593 2594 2595 2596 2597 2598 2599 2600 2601 2602 2603 2604 2605 2606 2607 2608 2609 2610 2611 2612 2613 2614 2615 2616 2617 2618 2619 2620 2621 2622 2623 2624 2625 2626 2627 2628 2629 2630 2631 2632 2633 2634 2635 2636 2637 2638 2639 2640 2641 2642 2643 2644 2645 2646 2647 2648 2649 2650 2651 2652 2653 2654 2655 2656 2657 2658 2659 2660 2661 2662 2663 2664 2665 2666 2667 2668 2669 2670 2671 2672 2673 2674 2675 2676 2677 2678 2679 2680 2681 2682 2683 2684 2685 2686 2687 2688 2689 2690 2691 2692 2693 2694 2695 2696 2697 2698 2699 2700 2701 2702 2703 2704 2705 2706 2707 2708 2709 2710 2711 2712 2713 2714 2715 2716 2717 2718 2719 2720 2721 2722 2723 2724 2725 2726 2727 2728 2729 2730 2731 2732 2733 2734 2735 2736 2737 2738 2739 2740 2


Michael S. Gzybowski
Reg. No. 32,816

MSG/mln/182316

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Changes Made to Specification Paragraphs

The second full paragraph on page 3 has been amended as follows:

It is an object of this invention to provide the disposable pull-on undergarment [improved] designed to be smoothly torn off along the bonding zones.

The fourth paragraph beginning on page 3 continuing on page 4 has been amended as follows:

[The improvement according] According to this invention [is in that] the first elastic members respectively have first opposite ends and first intermediate portions extending between the first opposite ends, respectively, and the first opposite ends are positioned and fixed at first zones defined immediately inside the bonding zones in a circumferential direction of the waist-opening.

The first full paragraph on page 4 has been amended as follows:

According to one [preferred] embodiment of this invention, the second elastic members respectively have second opposite ends and second intermediate portions extending between the second opposite ends, respectively, and the second opposite ends are positioned and fixed at second zones defined immediately inside the bonding zones in respective circumferential directions of the leg-openings.

The second full paragraph on page 4 has been amended as follows:

According to another [preferred] embodiment of this invention, at least one third elastic member lying below the first elastic members and being stretchable in the circumferential direction of the waist-opening is attached under tension to at least one of the first and second

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waist regions between the peripheral edge of the waist-opening and the peripheral edges of the leg-openings and wherein the third elastic member has third opposite ends and third intermediate portions extending between the third opposite ends and the third opposite ends are positioned and fixed at third zones defined immediately inside the bonding zones in the circumferential direction of the waist-opening.

The first full paragraph on page 5 has been amended as follows:

According to still another [preferred] embodiment of this invention, a peel strength between the first and second waist regions in the bonding zones is in a range of 4 ~ 40 N with respect to 25 mm, a longitudinal dimension of the bonding zone.

The first full paragraph on page 8 has been amended as follows:

The elastic members 8 associated with the waist-opening have their longitudinally opposite ends 8a (first opposite ends) lying in the transversely opposite side edge portions 1a of the front and rear waist regions 20, 22 and an intermediate portions 8b (first intermediate portion) extending between the respective opposite ends 8a. The respective opposite ends 8a are positioned in zones B2 defined immediately inside the respective bonding zones B1 in the circumferential direction X. The elastic members 8 [is] are disposed between the top- and backsheets 2, 3 with their respective opposite ends 8a partially fixed to inner surfaces of these sheets 2, 3 in the respective zones B2 by means of adhesive 10 and with their intermediate portions 8b intermittently fixed to inner surfaces of these sheets 2, 3 by means of adhesive 11.

The second paragraph beginning on page 8 and continuing on page 9 has been amended as follows:

The elastic [member] members 9 associated with each of the leg-openings [has] have longitudinally opposite ends 9a (second opposite ends) lying in the transversely opposite side

edge portions 1a of the front and rear waist regions 20, 22, respectively, and [an] intermediate [portion] portions 9b (second intermediate portion) extending between the opposite ends 9a. The opposite ends 9a are positioned in zones B3 defined immediately inside the respective bonding zones B1 in the circumferential direction Y. The elastic members 9 are disposed between the top- and backsheets 2, 3 with their respective opposite ends 9a partially fixed to inner surfaces of these sheets 2, 3 in the respective zones B3 by means of adhesive 12 and with their intermediate portions 9b intermittently fixed to the inner surfaces of these sheets 2, 3 by means of adhesive 13.

The first full paragraph on page 12 has been amended as follows:

The front and rear waist regions 20, 22 of the diaper 1 are provided with, in addition to the elastic members 8 associated with the waist-opening (first elastic members) and the elastic members 9 associated under the leg-openings, a plurality of auxiliary elastic members 14 (third elastic members) that are positioned and fixed under tension to the diaper 1 below the elastic members associated with the waist-opening so as to extend in its circumferential direction X. The auxiliary elastic members 14 are attached to the front and rear waist regions 20, 22 and extend across the core 4 in the circumferential direction X of the waist-opening.

The fourth paragraph beginning on page 13 and continuing on page 14 has been amended as follows:

The opposite ends 8a, 9a, 14a of the respective elastic members 8, 9, 14 are absent in the bonding zones B1 and therefore a factor which will resist tearing off of the diaper 1 along the bonding zones B1 is only a peel strength of the adhesive in these bonding zones B1. The diaper 1 shown by Fig. 4 is similar to the diaper 1 [shwon] shown by Fig. 1 in that the peel strength in the bonding zone B1 is in a range of 4 ~ 40 N/25 mm of the bonding zone B1 as measured longitudinally thereof.

Changes Made to Claims

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A disposable pull-on undergarment [having] comprising:

first and second waist regions opposed to each [other and] other; a crotch region extending between [these two] said first and second waist regions; [wherein these first and second waist regions are connected with each other in]

bonding zones connecting said first and second waist regions to one another, and extending along transversely opposite side edge portions [thereof] of said first and second waist regions so as to define a waist-opening and a pair of leg-openings; [and wherein]

first elastic members [being stretchable circumferentially of the waist regions are] bonded under tension to a peripheral edge of the waist-opening and being stretchable circumferentially of said first and second waist regions; and

second elastic members [being stretchable circumferentially of the legs are] bonded under tension to peripheral edges of the [leg-openings,] leg-openings and being stretchable circumferentially of said leg-openings.

[said disposable pull-on undergarment further comprising:] said first elastic members [respectively] each having first opposite ends and intermediate portions extending between said first opposite ends, [respectively, and] said first opposite ends being positioned and fixed at first zones defined immediately inside said bonding zones in a circumferential direction of said waist-opening.

Claim 2 has been amended as follows:

2. (Amended) The disposable pull-on undergarment according to Claim 1, wherein said second elastic members [respectively] each have second opposite ends and second intermediate portions extending between said second opposite ends, [respectively,] and said second opposite

ends [are] being positioned and fixed at second zones defined immediately inside said bonding zones in respective circumferential directions of said leg-openings.

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) The disposable pull-on undergarment according to Claim 1, [wherein] further comprising at least one third elastic member lying below said first elastic members and being stretchable in said circumferential direction of said [waist-opening is] waist-opening, said at least one third elastic member being attached under tension to at least one of said first and second waist regions between the peripheral edge of said waist-opening and said peripheral edges of said leg-openings, [and wherein] each of said at least one third elastic member has third opposite ends and third intermediate portion extending between said third opposite ends, [and] said third opposite ends [are] being positioned and fixed at third zones defined immediately inside said bonding zones in the circumferential direction of said waist-opening.

Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

4. (Amended) The disposable pull-on undergarment according to Claim 1, wherein a peel strength between said first and second waist regions in said bonding zones is in a range of about 4 [-] to about 40 N with respect to a 25 mm [mm, a] longitudinal dimension of said bonding zone.

Changes Made to Abstract

The disposable pull-on undergarment that has first and second waist regions and a crotch region extending between these two waist regions. The waist regions are connected with each other in bonding zones extending along transversely opposite side edge portions thereof so as to define a waist-opening and a pair of leg-openings. First elastic members are bonded under tension to peripheral edge of the waist-opening and second elastic members are bonded under tension to peripheral edges of the leg-openings so that respective opposite ends of the first elastic members are positioned and fixed at first zones defined immediately inside the bonding zones in a circumferential direction of the waist-opening and respective opposite ends of the second elastic members are positioned and fixed at second zones defined immediately inside the bonding zones in a circumferential direction Y of the leg-openings.